

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 145171

SUMMARY: INITIAL MOFA REACTION TO CIVAIR NOTE DELIVERED
JUNE 13 (REFTEL) WAS THAT IT SEEMED INFLEXIBLE WITH NO
OPENINGS GOJ POSITION WAS REASSERTED THAT IN-
EQUALITIES EXIST UNDER PRESENT AGREEMENT. THERE MAY
BE A SLIGHT CHANCE OF USEFUL CONSULTATIONS ON LOW-COST
FARES. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY DELIVERED CIVAIR NOTE (REFTEL) ON JUNE 13 TO
KOJI WATANABE, DIRECTOR OF FIRST NORTH AMERICA
DIVISION, MOFA, WHO RESPONDED WITH SOME INITIAL VIEWS:

2. ON "INEQUALITY": WATANABE SAID HE BELIEVES GOJ
UNDERSTANDS, BUT DISAGREES WITH, U.S. ARGUMENT THAT
ROUTE RIGHTS ARE BALANCED. HE DOES NOT SEE HOW U.S.
CAN CONTINUE TO ARGUE THAT FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS ARE
BALANCED. WE RESPONDED THAT THE TWO SIDES SIMPLY DO
NOT AGREE ON THIS QUESTION AND THERE IS NO POINT IN
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GLOSSING OVER IT.

3. DEFINITION OF "MULTIPLE DESIGNATIONS": WATANABE
REITERATED THAT GOJ OBJECTS TO DESIGNATIONS OF
ENTIRELY NEW CARRIERS. GOJ MIGHT AGREE TO NEW ROUTES
FOR PAN AM, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT NOT FOR UNITED AIRLINES.
4. TONE OF U.S. NOTE: WATANABE DESCRIBED NOTE AS

SHOWING NO SIGN OF CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE ON ANY
ISSUE. HE SAID IT WAS LIKE "A WALL WITH NO OPENINGS."

5. LOW-COST FARES: WATANABE SAW SLIGHT CHANCE THAT
CONSULTATIONS ON LOW-COST FARE PROPOSALS MIGHT BE HELD
AND DID NOT REJECT IDEA DESPITE JAPANESE POSITION THAT
"INEQUALITIES" MUST BE RESOLVED FIRST. WE SAID SUCH
TALKS COULD BE USEFUL ESPECIALLY IF JAL HAD SOME LOW-
COST FARE IDEAS, AND THAT SOLVING A SMALL PROBLEM
COULD PAVE THE WAY TO SOLVING BIGGER ONES.

6. NEXT STEPS: WATANABE WOULD LIKE TO SEE LINES OF
COMMUNICATION KEPT OPEN, BUT HE SAID IT WILL BE MORE
DIFFICULT FOR HIM NOW. HE ASKED IF KITAMURA (DEPUTY
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU) MIGHT
GO TO WASHINGTON, D.C., TO GET A READING ON U.S. MOOD.
WE SAID IT MIGHT HELP IF KITAMURA IS IN A POSITION
TO OFFER SOME HOPE OF PROGRESS. WATANABE ALSO
SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR TOGO MIGHT CALL ON DOT AND/OR U.S.
CAB REPRESENTATIVES. WE SAID SUCH CALLS BY HIM COULD
BE USEFUL BUT PROBABLY NOT IF HE ONLY REITERATES
KNOWN GOJ POSITIONS.

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